

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 6 as follows:

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Serial No. 09/475,704, filed December 30, 1999 (pending), which in turn is related to provisional patent applications serial nos. 60/114,495, filed December 30, 1998 and 60/162,195, filed September 30, 1999, from which priority is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e)(1) and which applications are incorporated herein by reference in their entireties.

On pages 74-75, please replace the paragraph bridging pages 74 and 75 with the following:

To construct a DHFR cassette, the EMCV IRES (internal ribosome entry site) leader was PCR-amplified from pCite-4a+ (Novagen, Inc., Milwaukee, WI) and inserted into pET-23d (Novagen, Inc., Milwaukee, WI) as an Xba-Nco fragment to give pET-EMCV. The dhfr gene was PCR-amplified from pESN2dhfr to give a product with a Gly-Gly-Gly-Ser (SEQ ID NO: 46) spacer in place of the translation stop codon and inserted as an Nco-BamH1 fragment to give pET-E-DHFR. Next, the attenuated neo gene was PCR amplified from a pSV2Neo (Clontech, Palo Alto, CA) derivative and inserted into the unique BamH1 site of pET-E-DHFR to give pET-E-DHFR/Neo(m2). Finally the bovine growth hormone terminator from pCDNA3 (Invitrogen, Inc., Carlsbad, CA) was inserted downstream of the neo gene to give pET-E-DHFR/Neo(m2)BGHt. The EMCV-dhfr/neo selectable marker cassette fragment was prepared by cleavage of pET-E-DHFR/Neo(m2)BGHt.